

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1- 4, 6-22 and 24-33 are pending in this application. Claims 34-47 have been withdrawn with traverse pursuant to the restriction requirement. Claims 1 and 18 are in independent form. Claims 5 and 23 are cancelled.

Claims 1-4, 4-22 and 24-27 stand rejected. Claims 5 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claim.

Specification Amendments

The specification was objected to because the some of the identified U.S. Patent Applications have matured into a corresponding U.S. Patent and the written description should therefore be updated. Accordingly, paragraph 11 is amended to reflect the corresponding U.S. Patent Numbers for those applications originally identified in the written description.

Rejection of Claims 12 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 12 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claims 12 and 28 have been amended to obviate the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,971,726 to Maeno. However, as set forth above, claims 5 and 23 are indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claims 5 and 23, respectively.

Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1 and 18 are now allowable. Since each of the remaining claims ultimately depend from claims 1 or 18, they are likewise allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks the claims 1-4, 6-22 and 24-33 as presented, are allowable, allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Any needed extension of time is hereby requested with the filing of this document.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-0960 (General Motors Corporation). A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

by 

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